

42808. STROBILANTHES FLACCIDIFOLIUS Nees. Acanthaceæ.

From Canton, China. Presented by Mr. P. R. Josselyn, American vice consul in charge. Received May 23, 1916.

"The only dye plant at all extensively grown in Szechwan to-day is *Strobilanthes flaccidifolius* (*tienhua*), which produces an indigo. In certain parts of the Chengtu Plain this is grown in quantity, and the same is true of the district of Mienchou and elsewhere, but its cultivation is on the decline. It is planted on ridges which are kept flooded between. When the plants are about 3 feet tall they are cut down and the leafy shoots placed in concrete pits full of cold water. After steeping for about five days the stems are removed, leaving a green-colored water. Slaked lime is placed in the water to precipitate the indigo. The water is allowed to drain off, and the dye is found deposited at the bottom of the pit." (*E. H. Wilson, A Naturalist in Western China, vol. 2, p. 86, 1914.*)

42809. ALBIZZIA LEBBECK (L.) Benth. Mimosaceæ. Lebbeck tree.

From Cairo, Egypt. Presented by Mr. Thomas W. Brown, Gizeh Branch, Ministry of Agriculture. Received May 23, 1916.

"The lebbek of Egypt is a large spreading deciduous tree which grows wild in the forests of India, where it is known as the *siris* tree. Its leaves are composed like those of the honey locust. The greenish yellow flowers are in heads of three or four together, and these are followed by strap-shaped yellowish brown pods 6 to 12 inches long and three-fourths to 1½ inches wide. The trunks of the mature trees are smooth with light-colored bark. The sapwood is white and the heartwood hard, brown mottled with darker longitudinal streaks. The wood seasons and works well and is durable. In many respects the lebbek tree is an ideal one for southern roadsides. It grows rapidly, produces a dense shade, thrives in soils which contain little moisture, and is as easily transplanted and propagated by cuttings as a willow. Large trees can be dug up, severely pruned back, and set out with very little risk of their dying. The crowns and irregular branches of the tree are unsymmetrical enough to relieve that monotony incident to long rows of such trees as the Lombardy poplar so common in Italy and Chile and in Utah, or the cypress so continually met with about north Italian cities. I have not been able to satisfy myself as to the hardiness of the lebbek tree, since such forests as are reported to have occurred in Cairo have been at long intervals. The probabilities are, however, that it will withstand slight frost, and experiments to test its hardiness are worthy of being thoroughly made. It may succeed, therefore, in southern California, Arizona, and Florida, possibly also in Texas and Louisiana." (*D. G. Fairchild, The Lebbek or Siris Tree, Botany Cir. 23, pp. 1-4.*)

42810. FRAGARIA CHILOENSIS (L.) Duchesne. Rosaceæ.**Strawberry.**

From Chile. Presented by Mr. L. J. Kenna, American consul general, Valparaiso, who secured them from Mr. Robert Christie, Castro, Chile. Received May 26, 1916.

"Strawberry seed from Cucao, west coast of Chiloe Island, Chile, March, 1916." (*Christie.*)